

Abraham's Availability (Genesis 22:1-14)

Proposition: We can see in this critical scene in the life of Abraham, three vital instructions concerning every Christian's availability to God.

- I. We must be Sensitive to God's Call (Vs. 1, 3)**
 - A. A Developed Sensitivity (Vs. 1a)
 - B. A Definite Sensitivity (Vs. 1b-d)
 - C. A Demonstrated Sensitivity (Vs. 3)
- II. We must be Submissive to God's Command (Vs. 2)**
 - A. Submissive Despite the Cost (Vs. 2a-c)
 - B. Submissive Despite the Conflict (Vs. 2d)
 - C. Submissive Despite the Consequences (Vs. 2e-f)
- III. We must be Surrendered to God's Control (Vs. 4-14)**
 - A. Surrendered to His Power (Vs. 4-5)
 - B. Surrendered to His Provision (Vs. 6-8, 13)
 - C. Surrendered to His Purpose (Vs. 12, 14)

Abraham's Availability (Genesis 12:1-14)

There are great abilities that people acquire, cultivate, and demonstrate. ^{Both} In the service of God there is a ability that is the greatest ability of all. What is it you ask? Is it sociability, compatibility, accountability, adaptability, or reliability? The greatest ability is availability. If we are not available to God, no matter what other kind of ability we have, it is of no use. Ability w/o availability is a liability. What does availability mean? It means to place one's self totally, absolutely, completely at God's disposal for Him to do anything and everything He wants to do in us, through us, with us, for us wherever He chooses. Anything less than that is putting restrictions on God and putting fine print in your commitment contract to Jesus Christ. ^{cl want} us for a few weeks to look a people that made themselves ~~available~~ for God's use in hopes that God would begin to mold

1. We Must Be Sensitive to God's Call (1,3)

I remember my dad telling me so often about how it seems that it seems as though what ever he said to me

goes in one ear and out the other, I fear this

A. A Developed Sensitivity (1a) I'll have to admit that this sensitivity to God's voice is not a sudden apprehension. But it is developed overtime. The phrase 'After these things' represents quite an extensive journey: first steps of faith, failure in Egypt, family conflict with Lot, fighting for Lot. All the while God is developing in Abraham a sensitivity.

B. A Definite Sensitivity (1b-d) -

"Here I am!" It was a definite response from Abraham. Crapping to Atlanta an attentiveness to what God has to say. He had an interest in what God was saying. This is not a arrogant statement. I'm not God but you need to understand that three times a week, through

C. A Demonstrates Sensitivity (v53) -

This sensitivity to God's call produces action in his life. He rose up early, saddled his donkey, gathered the mace, and took off. When you are sensitive to the voice of God it will translate in to action in your life. Is that what is going on in your life? Leadership

II. We must be Submissive to God's command

(2). Remember the old children's S.S. song: O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E, Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe. A Wellington

- 1) ...mold and shape us into vessels of His usefulness. Our first example of availability is Abraham. Here in the phrase "Here I am" we see Abraham voicing his availability to God. In this critical scene in the life of Abraham, we can see three vital instructions concerning every Christian's availability to God.
- 2) ...fear this insensitivity has persisted through the years because I hear my wife saying very much the same thing. Having selective hearing for each other is one thing, but having selective hearing for God is quite a different subject all together. We must be sensitive to the call of God.
- 3) ...a sensitivity to his call. Is that being developed in you? Are you reading God's word listening for His voice. Are you listening for God's direction in prayer? A young preacher once asked the late Bro. Joe Parsons, who was known to spend much time in prayer "Bro. Joe, what do you do during all that time with the Lord? Do you just pray and talk to the Lord?" Answering in his gentle way, he said, "Oh, no - I've learned through the years that what I've got to say to to Him isn't too important. I mostly just listen to Him.
- 4) ...through the preaching of the word, God is speaking to you. And many of you don't have a definite interest in what he has to say because you don't even bother showing up. And many of you that are here are not engaged, eagerly listening for God to speak to you. "Here I am!" Lord I'm listening!

1) ...would be used of God, it may cost you some things that are dear to your heart. Note that Isaac did not die. Abraham and Isaac both returned from the mount. But in verse 2, in the mind of Abraham, he had to thrust the dagger through his heart right then. You may have to sacrifice some relationships along the way to follow God. You may have to sacrifice some comforts in order to be available to God!

2) ...what you are asking me to do? This really doesn't make sense. You need right now to purpose in your heart to be submissive to the command of God right now despite the conflict that is sure to arise in your mind.

to obey is paramount to being available.

A. Submission Despite the Cost (2a-c)

If we are to be available to be used of God then we must be Submissive to what ever the cost. What a price of availability rings in the ears of Abraham. "thine only son" Think of all Abrahams was. The father of faith, the very pattern of obedience to God. It did not come w/o a cost. If you would be

B. Submission Despite the Conflict (2d)

What a conflict! "Whom thou louest" The conflict is that God had never up to this point asked for a human sacrifice. God had promised that Abraham would be the father of many nations through this very child he now wants him to sacrifice. God do you know what you are?

C. Submission Despite the Consequences (2e-f)

The consequences of this action in the finite understanding of Abraham would be that he would lose the son he so dearly love. He would lose the nation that he thought would be born of the seed of Isaac. He must be obedient despite the implications. So God did not see it under

III. We must be Surrendered to God's Control (4-14)

The greatest thing about being surrendered to God is that you are surrendered to God. Note, "When thou

We can surrender to a God that is in control.

A. Surrendered to His Power (4-5) - Abraham told the attendants that he and Isaac were going to worship and come back. Abraham surrendered to the fact that God was powerful enough to keep his promise. Heb 11:17-19 gives us Abrahams mounting climbing mindset. Being available to God means that we are trusting in His power and

B. Surrendered to His Promise (6-8, 13) One of the greatest and most prophetic statements in the Bible! (158). Abrahams mind was set to see the power of God in raising Isaac from the dead. But what he actually found was the promise of God (13). if you will make yourself available to God and all him to use your life

C. Surrendered to His Purpose (12) Abraham could not have known the implications of his availability to God. Can sure he thought 'Why?' But he left the purpose in Gods hands. God was preparing Abrahams fear of God. He was also giving a type or figure of what God would do thousand of years later. Give his only son.

II. Close - Your greatest ability is not your singing ability, your preaching ability, your teaching ability. But your availability. God calling to you! "Here I am!"

- 1) Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.
- 2) ...power and ability to perform what ever task that He commands us to perform. When you make your self available to God, to do what ever he asks you must realize that you are surrendering your life into the hands of one that parts Red Seas, that raises people from the dead, that works all things out to the counsel of His own will! Surrender to His power!
- 3) ...your life, you may very well like Abraham, name the place of your service: Jehovahjireh: the Lord will Provide!
- 4) ...only son. The purposes and plans for your live may or may not be evident, but you can trust your life to the purposes of an all powerful God of love and mercy.